



BIOL 4500 - Biology Seminar

Course Syllabus – Spring 2015

Individuals with disabilities who need to request accommodations should contact the Disability Services Coordinator, Student Center 255, (678) 466-5445, disabilityservices@mail.clayton.edu.

Course Description:

Number and Title:

BIOL4500 (CRN 20471)
Biology Seminar

Credit Hours:

1.0 semester credit hours

Catalog Description:

Experts from industry, government, and academe address current topics in Biology. Students enrolled in the seminar prepare for the talks by performing electronic literature searches and submitting questions for the speakers. This course gives students the opportunity to meet with and question experts in the field. Examinations and projects are based on seminar topics.

Course Co-requisites:

BIOL 1108/L, CHEM 2412/L, and MATH 1231

Computer Requirement:

Each CSU student is required to have ready access throughout the semester to a notebook computer that meets faculty-approved hardware and software requirements for the student's academic program. Students will sign a statement attesting to such access. For further information on CSU's Official Notebook

Computer Policy, please go to:

<http://www.clayton.edu/hub/itpchoice/notebookcomputerpolicy>.

Software Requirement:

To properly access the course content you will need to download the following free software:

- Adobe Reader (needed to access files in PDF format):
<http://get.adobe.com/reader/>
- Adobe Flash (needed to access video content):
<http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>

Computer Skill Prerequisites:

- Able to use the Windows™ operating system
- Able to use Microsoft Word™ word processing
- Able to send and receive e-mail using Outlook™ or Outlook Express™
- Able to attach and retrieve attached files via email
- Able to use a Web browser.
- Able to print documents either on your home computer's printer or Smart Print (networked printers on campus).

In-class Use of Student Notebook Computers:

Student notebook computers may be used in the classroom, when appropriate. Computers will be required to access course materials and to communicate with the instructor and other students in the course.

Desire2Learn:

You will be required to access course materials, submit assignments, and contribute to online discussions on Desire2Learn.

You can gain access to Desire2Learn, by signing on to the SWAN portal and selecting: "D2L" on the top right side. If you experience any difficulties in Desire2Learn, please email or call The HUB at TheHub@mail.clayton.edu or (678) 466-HELP. You will need to provide the date and time of the problem, your SWAN username, the name of the course that you are attempting to access, and your instructor's name.

Program Learning Outcomes:

BIOL 4500 supports outcomes 1, 3, 5, 6, and 7 of the biology major.

- (1) Effectively demonstrate knowledge of the basic principles of major fields of biology.
 - (3) Knowledge of physical science, mathematics, and statistics required to support an understanding of biology.
 - (5) Demonstrate the ability to collect, evaluate and interpret scientific data, and employ critical thinking to solve problems in biological science and supporting fields.
 - (6) Collaborate effectively on team-oriented projects.
 - (7) Demonstrate the ability to identify and describe the impact of biological and physical sciences on the environment and society.
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Course Learning Outcomes:

- To apply current research in the biological, chemical, and physical sciences to the real world problem of feeding the growing human population.
 - To integrate the multiple disciplines in the biological sciences.
 - To develop professional skills necessary for success in a career in the biological sciences.
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Instructor Information:

Ms. Ann Showalter

Office: NBS 161

Phone: 678-466-4771

Email: AnnShowalter@clayton.edu

Website: <http://faculty.clayton.edu/ashowalter>

Office Hours: Mon 3:30-5pm, Tues 2:15-4:45pm, Thurs 12-2pm

Class Meetings:

Classroom: University Center, U331

Class times: Friday, 2:00-3:50pm

Textbook Information:

Writing papers in the biological sciences, 4th edition, Victoria E. McMillan. 2006. Bedford/St. Martin's. New York.

Additional reading material will be available on Desire2Learn.

Evaluation:

Class participation @ 5 points per week	75
Submission of discussion questions @ 5 points per week	70
Leading class discussion	40
Professional skills assignments	60
TOTAL	245

Grading:

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Grade	Percentage
S	≥70%
U	Below 70%

Mid-term Progress Report:

No mid-term grades will be reported for this course. Students making unsatisfactory progress will be contacted individually by the instructor before mid-term. [Instructions for withdrawing are provided at this link.](#)

The last day to withdraw without academic accountability is Friday, March 6, 2015.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Much of this schedule is tentative - a complete course schedule will be available on Desire2Learn.

Class	Topic
Jan 16	Introduction, Discussion topic brainstorming Meyers-Briggs personality testing
Jan 23	Feeding the planet overview (led by instructor) Assigning discussion leaders/topics
Jan 30	TBA (led by instructor) What is a CV?
Feb 6	TBA (student-led) CV peer-review
Feb 13	TBA (student-led) Managing your online reputation
Feb 20	TBA (student-led) What makes a good cover letter?
Feb 27	TBA (student-led) Cover letter peer-review
Mar 6	Movie! (TBA)
March 6, 2015 is the last day to withdraw and receive a W grade	
Mar 13	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS THIS WEEK
Mar 20	TBA (student-led) LinkedIn
Mar 27	TBA (student-led)
Apr 3	TBA (student-led)
Apr 10	TBA (student-led)
Apr 17	TBA (student-led)
Apr 24	TBA (student-led)
May 1	Final synthesis discussion (led by instructor)

Course Policies:

General Policy

Students must abide by policies in the [Undergraduate and Graduate Student Code of Conduct](#) and the [Basic Undergraduate Student Responsibilities](#).

Late work

No late work will be accepted in this class. Any late submissions will automatically receive a grade of zero. Weekly discussion questions are due on Thursday at 5pm (i.e., the day before class). Professional development assignments are due at the beginning of class.

Attendance

Students are required to attend and participate in every class meeting. Students are required to be on time to class and will be penalized for tardiness by losing at least some of the participation points for that day (the amount depends on what you miss and how you participate once you arrive).

Students are not permitted to leave any class session early. Please do not schedule any appointments, events, etc. before the ending time of class.

Completely missing a class for any reason results in a loss of all participation points for that day's class. If you miss class where your group is leading discussion or participating in peer-review, you will receive an automatic zero for that grade. Exceptions to this policy can be made only under extenuating circumstances and with a WRITTEN excuse or explanation for tardiness or absence. If you have an acceptable excuse (see below), then it may be possible to make adjustments depending on the circumstances.

For any excuse to be "acceptable", students must provide the instructor with an original (no photocopies) document from a competent authority (doctor or other healthcare provider, a subpoena, jury summons, etc.). For this purpose, a note from a student's parents is NOT acceptable. The excuse must specifically indicate the dates that are to be excused, must be presented upon the first class day that the student returns to school, and makeup arrangements must be made at that time. The decision on how to adjust a student's grade for missed work is at the discretion of the instructor and without an acceptable written excuse, no adjustments will be made. For students who miss a class when their group was leading discussion, they will need to work with a different group to earn those points.

Cell Phone Policy

Turn off all cell phones, pagers, etc. when entering the classroom. Cell phone use during class is disrespectful and distracting to the instructor and other students. Any student using their cell phone during class (ringing, talking, or sending/receiving text messages) may be asked to leave the class and forfeit his or her participation grade for that day.

Academic Dishonesty

No form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated in this class. Any type of activity that is considered dishonest by reasonable standards may constitute academic misconduct. The most common forms of academic misconduct are cheating and plagiarism. All instances of academic dishonesty will result in a MINIMUM penalty of a grade of zero for the work involved. All instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the [Office of Community Standards](#). Judicial procedures are described in the [Procedures for Adjudicating Alleged Academic Conduct Infractions](#).

Disruption of the Learning Environment

Behavior which disrupts the teaching–learning process during class activities will not be tolerated. While a variety of behaviors can be disruptive in a classroom setting, more serious examples include belligerent, abusive, profane, and/or threatening behavior. A student who fails to respond to reasonable faculty direction regarding classroom behavior and/or behavior while participating in classroom activities may be dismissed from class. A student who is dismissed is entitled to due process and will be afforded such rights as soon as possible following dismissal. If found in violation, a student may be administratively withdrawn and may receive a grade of WF.

More detailed descriptions of [examples of disruptive behavior](#) are provided in the Clayton State University Academic Catalog and Student Handbook.

Operation Study

At Clayton State University, we expect and support high motivation and academic achievement. Look for Operation Study activities and programs this semester that are designed to enhance your academic success such as study sessions, study breaks, workshops, and opportunities to earn Study Bucks (for use in the University Bookstore) and other items. See the following site for details:

<http://www.clayton.edu/operation-study>

Last update: January 11, 2015
